

NCDOT Rail Division - Corridor Preservation Program

The Rail Corridor Preservation Act, passed by the General Assembly in 1988, gave the NCDOT authority to purchase railroads and preserve rail corridors for "future rail use and interim compatible uses." Amendments to the Act passed during the 1989 session also declared it a public purpose for the NCDOT to reassemble critically important lost portions of rail corridors by condemnation.

In 1988, the NCDOT purchased the former Southern Railway's 67-mile Murphy Branch (part of which has since been purchased by the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad), setting the precedent for other acquisitions that followed. The 14-mile Piedmont and Northern rail line was returned to service in 2010 and has strategic connections to both Norfork Southern and CSX Transportation. NCDOT now holds title to more than 100 miles of rail corridors preserved for future use.

The Rail Division also provides technical assistance to local governments and economic-development groups to preserve freight-rail service to customers along light-density branch lines. In addition, Freight Rail and Rail Crossing Safety Improvement Funds and federal funds are used to assist short line railroads in making improvements to tracks and bridges, thereby helping to keep these lines active.

3.0 (spur) Gastonia & Belmont SFF 0.13-3.13 Lease (Mt. Holly) 5. Piedmont & Northern Charlotte 11-27-91 0.77 SFC 0.75-1.52 Trail Lease (Cedar Yard) 6. Winston-Salem R-Line **Downtown Winston-Salem** 2-26-06 2.0 R-124-126 Trail Lease & Rail Banked 7. Durham & South Carolina Durham to NC 54 8-18-95 Trail Lease & 5.07 (main) DD 32.63-37.7 DD 36.09-39.16 Rail Banked 3.07 (spur) 8. Durham & South Carolina Chatham-Wake Co. 8-18-95 7.35 Trail Lease & DD 14.1-21.45 line to New Hill Rail Banked 9. Durham & South Carolina Fayetteville Street to 8-6-98 6.34 DD 21.45-27.79 Trail Lease Chatham-Wake Co. line 10. Franklin County Franklinton to Louisburg 11-2-90 9.6 SC 130.2-139.84 Trail Lease & Rail Banked 11. Nash County Railroad Momeyer to Spring Hope 11-02-05 4.3 ABA 134.8-139.1 Rail Banked 12. Wilmington Lead Fourth Street to McRae Street 6-12-02 .25 Rail Banked 13. Wilmington & Weldon Wallace to Castle Hayne 8-4-94 27.1 AC 208.07-235.17 Rail Banked 9-30-12 5.7 14. Global TransPark Spur Kinston GTP 0.0-5.7 Operating Lease

Dashed corridors are not in service.